

clime, but the arbitrary admission of any of them would also disturb an unimpaired view over the purely native flora." Whilst, however, the Baron has designedly omitted this subject, we may gather from the volumes of the *Flora Australiensis*, (in which in conjunction with Mr. Bentham he has expressed his views in reference to many plants of doubtful origin,) a list of of the principal species unknown at Port Jackson in the early days of the colony. No one is better qualified than the Baron to form a correct opinion of the matter, or to give an approximate estimate of the plants peculiar to the Australian Colonies, for his personal researches in the field have extended over a considerable portion of the continent for thirty-four years. I hope, therefore, that when he has completed his survey of Victorian plants, he will discuss in an elaborate manner the topics which I have been briefly considering in these papers.

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#### POPULAR NOMENCLATURE.

BY THE REV. DR. WOOLLS, D.D., F.L.S.

People sometimes make themselves merry with Botanical names, and no doubt they have some reason for merriment, for, as Professor Lindley remarks, "It is full time, indeed, that some stop should be put to this torrent of savage sounds, when we find such words as *Calucechinus*, *Ovsigenesa*, *Finaustrina*, *Krascheninikovia*, *Gravenhorstia*, *Andrzejofskya*, &c., thrust into the records of Botany." Now in order to remedy this evil, the popular idea is to adopt short names in the vernacular, and to give up scientific names altogether. This seems very feasible to persons who have not considered the subject, for they forget that the popular names of one district are not those of another, and that unsatisfactory as some scientific names are, they are, nevertheless, necessary, for the world at large. Whilst, therefore, care should be taken to abbreviate and render euphonious the nomenclature of science,

it by no means follows that such can be abandoned altogether. English names are very suitable for English-speaking people, but they convey no idea to foreigners, who do not understand the English language. As a vehicle, therefore, for educated persons in all parts of the world, no language can be more suitable than Latin or Greek; whilst it may be admitted that popular names for genera and species, wherever such can be adopted for particular countries or districts, are not without their use. In the old countries of Europe, plants for the most part have common as well as scientific names, and uneducated people find no difficulty in distinguishing such species as are useful for economical or medicinal purposes. This, however, is not the case in Australia, for the early settlers, who imposed popular names on indigenous shrubs and trees, did not exercise much discretion. Hence it often happens that persons who now desire to acquire some knowledge of Australian Plants without referring to scientific works, are led astray by the sound of European terms with which, perhaps, they have been familiar in other countries. In one of our largest and most important genera, this is certainly the case. Many species of Eucalypts are called "Gum-trees"; but, surely, if any native trees deserve the name, it should be those species of *Acacia* which produce the substance similar to that called Gum-arabic, and not those, which the Pharmacopœia recognises for the excellency of their kino. Whilst Eucalypts, therefore, are wrongly named "Gum-trees," some species of *Acacia*, which really are such, have now acquired the appellation of Wattles. In the early days of the colony, as Don states, *Callicoma serratifolia*, was the Black Wattle, being probably so called, because it abounded where Sydney now stands and was used in the construction of rude buildings, but now the terms Black and Green Wattle are applied almost universally to the two varieties of *Acacia decurrens*, which, in many respects, resemble each other, but flower at different seasons. Then, again there are our "Apple trees" (*Angophora*), so called, one would

think, because they do not resemble the European Apple either in foliage or fruit! Nor are the terms "Gum-trees" and "Apple-trees" less appropriate than such as "Honey-suckle," "Native Tulip," "Native Rose," "Native Hops," "Native Tobacco," "Native Cherry," "Native Peach," "Native Orange" &c. which are applied to *Banksia*, *Telopea*, *Boronia*, *Dodonæa*, *Humea*, *Exocarpus*, *Owenia*, *Cupparis* &c. Seeing, then, that such names are calculated to mislead, what is to be done in the way of nomenclature? Are we to assist in perpetuating an erroneous method of distinguishing species? Or should we strive by the abbreviation of scientific names, or the use of native names whenever practicable, to render the study of native plants easy to the uninitiated? As a general rule, I believe, it would be advantageous to discourage, as far as possible, the use of popular terms. Many of them are without meaning, and many are calculated to convey a wrong impression. Thus for instance the terms "Honey-suckle" and "Tulip" are applied to species of the Proteaceæ; "Gum-trees" and "Apple-trees" to those of the Myrtaceæ; "Rose," "Hops," and "Tobacco" to the Rutaceæ, Sapindaceæ, and Compositæ; and "Cherry," "Peach," and "Orange" to the Santalaceæ, Meliaceæ, and Capparideæ. It is evident, therefore, that such names are mischievous, so far as the pursuit of Botany is concerned, for they teach persons to associate species with families with which they have no relation. Baron F. von Mueller, who has paid more attention to the study of our Eucalypts than any one in these Colonies, is of opinion that all the popular names should be set aside, for it has been found that the Red Gum of one district is an *Angophora*, and of another an Eucalypt, whilst the names Blue, White, Grey, and Spotted Gums are applied indifferently to several species. Mr. Bentham in describing from dried specimens forwarded to him from Australia, was often perplexed by local names, and although he laid down a system of classification which is being successfully followed by Baron Mueller, he seemed almost to despair of

reconciling it with the notes of collectors. Within the last few years, the study of native plants has become more popular than it was, and it is to be hoped, that, as the subject is more generally pursued, many of Robert Brown's names, which are singularly appropriate, will come into use amongst educated people. That eminent Botanist was the first to give "a local habitation and a name" to the principal genera about Port Jackson, and whilst some names bring to the mind at once some peculiar character in the structure of plants there are others which are associated with naval, military, or scientific heroes ever to be remembered in the history of Anstralia. In conclusion I would remark, that, whilst I feel but little sympathy with such terms as those stigmatized by Lindley I feel still less with those which ignorance or folly has imposed. The one, indeed, may be modified and improved, so as to convey some definite meaning, but the other should be gradually discontinued as leading to misconception.

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#### AUSTRALIAN OCTOPODIDÆ.

BY JAMES C. COX, M.D., F.L.S., &c.

In presenting for your consideration the following remarks, accompanied by a carefully compiled list of the species, and ample references to authors, of all the known animals which inhabit our coasts, of the Family Octopodidæ, I am actuated by the desire of directing, through the medium of our Society's Transactions, the greater attention of our resident naturalists to the study of this particular, although limited, branch of the naked cephalopods.

The Octopods are unquestionably the most highly organized and the most remarkable of all the animals which constitute the great molluscan group: but from the many difficulties attendant on their capture, and after death in their preservation, they have